

REMARKS

Claims 17-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 17 and 18 are amended and claims 1-16 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. Claims 20 and 21 are withdrawn from consideration. Support for the amendments to claims 17 and 18 can be found at least in originally-filed claims 10 and 16. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 17-19 define patentable subject matter. By this amendment, claims 17 and 18 are rewritten in independent form.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 7-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0232501 to Kher et al. (hereinafter "Kher"), rejects claims 1-3, 5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0195643 to Harada and rejects claims 1-3 and 6-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0040501 to Vaartstra. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

By this amendment, claims 1-16 are canceled, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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